Root #03

YUIKO, DON'T YOU HAVE A BIRTHMARK ON YOUR SHOULDER?
THAT APPEARS AS EVIDENCE YOU HOLD THE LOTUS.
IN BRIEF, THERE IS THE MARK OF OWNING THE LOTUS ON YOUR BODY.
I STILL DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
I'M... GOING HOME!
YUIKO!
!
kya
clatter
GRAND-PA...!
clatter
WHAT'S WRONG, YUI-CHAN?
UM... UM...
MY...BIRTH MARK...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...I CAN'T SUDDENLY START RAMBLING ABOUT DEMONS..

..YOU'VE HEARD? ABOUT 'OHI-SAMA'?
SO YOU KNOW...?
OHI-SAMA? IS THAT THE LOTUS?
!
THEN... WHY...
..YUI-CHAN, 'OHI-SAMA' IS A PRECIOUS OBJECT OUR ESTEEMED ANCESTORS ENTRUSTED TO US.
IT'S WARM AND LARGE AS A SUN IS.
THAT'S HOW YOUR MOTHER, GRAND-MOTHER AND I CALLED IT.
...SOMETHING WARM...?
I CAN'T THINK OF IT THAT WAY... GRANDPA...
.....

...YUI-CHAN,
WE WERE ONLY ENTRUSTED WITH OHI-SAMA,SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW.
GRAND-PA...
I SEE ...
SO THIS HAS COME IN YOUR TIME...
!
...HOW-EVER...
THIS MAY BE PAINFUL FOR YOU,
BUT IN-VERSELY IT COULD BRING YOU HAPPINESS.
-BUT GRAND-PA...
DON'T BE SCARED, YUI-CHAN.
.....
ALWAYS BE YOURSELF.
YUI-CHAN SHOULD JUST BE YUI-CHAN,

WITH SUCH SCARY THINGS OUT THERE, I CAN'T BE NORMAL...
YUIKO, GOOD MORNING.
!
GO TIE IT WITH A RIBBON.
UHH...
OKAY
YOUR BED HEAD!
AREN'T I ALWAYS TELLING YOU?
UH, YEAH, YEAH.
IT'S THE USUAL CHI-CHAN...
...YUIKO,
SORRY FOR YESTER-DAY.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN CONFUS-ING SUDDENLY DUMPING ALL THAT ON YOU.
!

BUT IT'S ALRIGHT,
...
IT'S FINE IF YOU STAY THE WAY YOU ARE NOW.
...CHI-CHAN...
...SO!
LET'S GO TO SCHOOL, WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE.
YE-YEAH...
...THE USUAL CHI-CHAN...
Morning you two
Good morning!
Morning Chikage-kun, Yuiko-chan.
Good morning
THE USUAL

THE USUAL...
...AOKI-
INOUE-
HERE
ONO
clatter
clatter
...ONO?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ONO?
EH? NOT HERE?
SO SHE HASN'T BEN HERE SINCE MORN-ING?
clatter

chatter
chatter
WHAT? SHE'S SKIPPING?
WHATEVER.
shock
HUH?
YUIKO-CHAN, WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
AH, I FORGOT... SOMETHING..
I SEE
YEAH...
SO THEN...
I SKIPPED... SCHOOL.
doki
doki
doki
.....
BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
YES...

I'M SO SCARED
OF SNEAKING AROUND AND RUNNING AWAY.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.
Whoosh...

UNEXPEC-
TEDLY...
YOU ARE
SUCH A
STUPID
WOMAN,
SIMPLY
WANDERING
OFF ON
YOUR OWN.
!!!
-DEMON-SAN!?

YOU HAVE TO BE WITH ME, YOU UNDERSTAND?
ALRIGHT, YUIKO?
NOW THAT THOSE GUYS HAVE APPEARED, DON'T WANDER AROUND ALONE.
CHI-CHAN...
BECAUSE I'LL DEFINITELY PROTECT YOU...
I NEED TO RUN!!
Dash
THERE WE GO.
KYAA!

!!
MY SHOULDER ...!
ドキッ
THE SOUMA IS REACTING.
...
THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED SINCE YOU'RE TOUCHING ME.
OUCH...
THAT LOTUS THING...I DON'T NEED IT...!
...?
IT'S SCARY...
...I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
I HATE... THESE THOUGHTS !!
SO TAKE IT AND GO!!

!?
IF I DO THAT THEN YOU'LL JUST DROP DEAD.
LOTUS...
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE CALLING IT?
TNP...
WELL AT ANY RATE THAT TIME IS COMING.
WHEN YOU'LL BE CONSUMED BY ME.
!!
WHAT DID...?
JUST NOW...

CONSUMED...
MY BODY WILL TAKE IN BOTH THE SOUMA AND YOUR ENTIRE BEING.
.....!!
IT'S BEST IF YOU SACRIFICE YOURSELF COMPLETELY FOR ME.
...STILL,

YOUR SOUL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO UNTIL IT BE-COMES THE SPHERE.
SHOCK
BUT NOW IS NOT YET TIME.
SPHERE...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...
*MOVES

SLASH
BAM
TCH...

YUIKO-CHAN, HEAD INSIDE THE SHRINE.
THIS GUY CAN'T GO INSIDE.
SHUN-RAN-SAN...?
...HOW TROUBLESOME
FUJI-WARA SHUN-RAN,

I'LL BE YOUR OPPONENT.
.....
SO IMPERTINENT ...
SLASH
...KU ...!
THIS GUY...

IT'S OVER ...
!!
IF YOU KILL ME THEN THAT GIRL'S A GONER TOO!
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

...
THE SOUMA YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN PROTECTING SO CAREFULLY...
DOESN'T WORK.
IT'S JUST TRASH.
BECAUSE SHE LACKS A SOUL.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED,
BUT YOUR FLIMSY SOUL CAN'T SUPPORT THE SOUMA.
I LACK...
A SOUL...?
IT'S JUST A LIE...
SO YOU CAN'T SEE IT?

I CAN SEE,
THE GLITTER OF A HUMAN SOUL.
WHERE DID THAT WOMAN DROP HER SOUL?
...WHAT DOES HE MEAN ...?
IT CAN'T BE,
...YUIKO-CHAN,
YOU SAID YOU WERE IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER...
AH,
YES...

THAT'S PROBABLY WHEN IT WAS LOST,
HER SOUL
!!
AN ACCIDENT WHERE LIFE AND DEATH HANG IN THE BALANCE...
IT CAN'T BE AT THAT TIME...
SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD,
HOWEVER, THE SOUMA IS JUST BARELY SUPPORTING HER SOUL.
..BUT,
THAT'S ALSO A MATTER OF TIME.
NO ONE CAN LIVE WITHOUT A SOUL,
IT'S A MIRACLE YOU'RE ALIVE.

THAT CAN'T BE CHANGED.
SOON SHE'LL DIE.
...I'LL...
DIE...?
BUT IF IT'S ME THEN I CAN RE-GATHER HER SCATTERED SOUL.
!?

...NO,
ONLY I CAN DO IT.
...NOW, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
SHALL WE LISTEN TO HIS STORY?
HOW INTEREST-ING.
KIKU-CHAN!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? THERE'S NO NEED TO LISTEN TO HIM...
YOU'RE GOING TO JUST IGNORE HIM?
WE NEED TO CONSIDER ALL POSSIBILITIES.
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DEAL WITH HIM AFTER WE HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.
DEAL WITH...
SHOCK
shiver...
SCARY...

WHY...? EVERYONE SEEM LIKE DIFFERENT PEOPLE...
WHAT DO THEY ME,N BY 'DE,L WITH?

...NOW THEN,
WHY DON'T YOU TELL US WHAT YOU MENTIONED EARLIER?

.....
KIKUICHI-SAN, IS YUIKO HERE...
CHI-CHAN...
WHY IS THAT BASTARD HERE?!

KIKUICHI-SAN WHY!?
WAIT, CHIKAGE.
...
WHAT...!?
IF WHAT HE SAID IS TRUE THEN IT MIGHT BE CAUSE FOR CONCERN.
THAT DEMON MENTIONED SOMETHING A LITTLE ALARMING,
PLEASE PUT AWAY YOUR KATANA, CHIKAGE.
mad

IT MUST BE HARD FOR HIM TO BE POLITE...YOU GUYS TOO.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
...NOW, DEMON-
...MOVING ON,
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER YOU OBTAIN THE LOTUS?
WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER?
...MAO

!!!
THAT'S ALL.
IF THINGS CONTINUE LIKE THIS THAT GIRL WILL DIE.
IT'S JUST AS I SAID EARLIER...
WHEN?
CHIKAGE-KUN!
ABOUT THAT,
STOP SCREWING AROUND...
...NO, HALF A YEAR.
...IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR MONTHS, ONE YEAR...

IT'S WORRISOME FOR YOU GUYS IF THAT GIRL DIES, ISN'T IT?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! IT'S BAD FOR ME TOO IF THAT GIRL DIES.
AFTER HALF A YEAR...
...HALF A YEAR?
MY LIFE WILL...?
ISN'T YOUR AIM JUST THE LOTUS?
...

I WILL CONSUME ALL OF HER.
THAT GIRL IS MY SACRIFICE,
MY THING.
!!
...
...WELL,
THERE'S NO POINT IN DEVOURING HER NOW.
AT LEAST, NOT UNTIL THE SOUMA STARTS WORKING...
SO THAT'S WHY I'M OFFERING TO HELP YOU FIND HER SOUL.
.....

THINGS WOULD BE BAD IF SHE DIED...
RETRIEVE HER SOUL? AND JUST HOW WOULD YOU PROPOSE WE DO THAT?
...INDEED.
WHEN YUIKO-CHAN DIES THE ONO FAMILY WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT A SUCCESSOR. WOULD WILL HAPPEN THEN...I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT.
HMM?
...!
THIS GUY...
NATURALLY HANDLING SOULS IS OUR SPECIALTY.
AREN'T I A DEMON?
...ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOUNG MASTER...
AAH-
HE'S HIDING SOMETHING.
SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE LEGEND WE KNOW...
SO YOU WENT OUT TO PLAY WHEN I WASN'T THERE...
!!!
IS THIS THE OTHER DEMON CHIKAGE MENTIONED!?
BUT YOUNG MASTER JUST DISAPPEARED BY HIMSELF.
MAYA, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WENT OFF SOMEWHERE.
KIKU-CHAN...
HE PASSED THROUGH THE BARRIER...!

...CHK!
WOOSH
CHIKAGE-KUN!
!
KIKUICHI-SAN!! JUST KILL THEM RIGHT HERE!!
STOP TALKING TRASH!!
ENOUGH BULLSHIT!!
THEN WE CAN PRO-TECT OUR LEG-ENDS!!

DEMONS SHOULDN'T EVEN BE IN THIS WORLD!!
CHI-CHAN.
...THAT'S RIGHT. DEMONS SHOULDN'T BE IN THIS WORLD.
HOWEVER,
WE CAN'T DENY THE POSSIBILTY THAT YUIKO-CHAN IS LACKING A SOUL.
AN ABHORRED DEMON'S WORDS...
SHOULD WE BELIEVE THEIR STORY?

SCANNED

TRANSLATED

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